

## JUNIOR DOCTORS' STRIKE

Junior doctors working in the NHS are extremely well-trained, dedicated and hard-working. As the government merrily decimates the Welfare State, they are much-appreciated by their patients.



The NHS is underfunded and understaffed, yet hospitals provide a full range of services for five days a week with staff working some weekends in order to provide full and other emergency cover. The system works well yet the government insists on meddling despite the objections of medical professionals who know best.

The government is insisting that a full range of services be provided seven days a week, resulting in existing staff being stretched more thinly - a change which makes no sense and endangers patient safety.

Junior doctors do not accept the new contract and Jeremy Hunt, the Health Secretary, has said he will impose it without further negotiations. Junior doctors are fighting for quality in our NHS and we should support them at every turn.

## WHO WE ARE

In 1991, Haringey Solidarity Group (HSG) emerged from the Anti-Poll Tax campaign, formed by Haringey residents with a wide range of backgrounds and views. We wanted to create a long-term, vibrant, non-hierarchical group, unlike political parties where ambitions and posturing displace real politics.

We believe in ridding ourselves of the current system which places profit and power before people's needs. This involves getting organised, fighting back and collectively taking those decisions which affect our daily lives, communities and workplaces.

We think people must take control of their community and workplace struggles, support each other, encourage practical solidarity, build the necessary skills and knowledge for those struggles and generate strong, permanent, grassroots networks.

Many of us are involved with

local residents', community and campaign groups within the borough. We support workers in dispute, campaigns against public service cuts and threatened community amenities. We are active on environmental, housing and claimants' issues and resist oppressive policing and state controls.

We encourage everyone to share their views at our open, monthly meetings where consensus is the aim. We would welcome your involvement, either as an individual or a campaign group, at our meetings and discussion evenings and with practical activities including distributing this newsletter and producing other materials including posters and leaflets.

If you would like to learn more about HSG, then visit [haringey.org.uk](http://haringey.org.uk), befriend us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter @\_hsg\_, contact us at PO Box 2474, London N8, phone 0845 2235270 or email [info@haringey.org.uk](mailto:info@haringey.org.uk)

## LOCAL GROUPS

Below are a few active local groups that we think are worth supporting:

**Haringey Independent Cinema**  
Not for profit community-led film club

[haringey.org.uk/hic](http://haringey.org.uk/hic)

**StART (St Ann's Redevelopment Trust)**

Organising for affordable housing on St. Ann's hospital site  
[startharingey.co.uk](http://startharingey.co.uk)

**HAPS (Haringey Alliance for Public Services)**

Defending public services in Haringey  
[hapsnews.net](http://hapsnews.net)

**Our Tottenham**

Campaigning for community-led regeneration in Tottenham  
[ourtottenham.org.uk](http://ourtottenham.org.uk)

**Haringey Housing Action Group**

Mutual support group taking action on housing issues  
[haringeyhousingaction.org.uk](http://haringeyhousingaction.org.uk)

**Haringey Migrant Support Centre**

Advice and support for migrants and asylum seekers  
[haringeymsc.org](http://haringeymsc.org)

**Haringey Federation of Residents' Associations**

Umbrella organisation for residents' groups  
[hfra.wikispaces.com](http://hfra.wikispaces.com)

**Haringey Friends of Parks Forum**

Forum for friends of parks groups  
[haringeyfriendsofparks.org.uk](http://haringeyfriendsofparks.org.uk)

**Haringey Defend Council Housing**

Fighting for social housing in Haringey

[facebook.com/HDCHpage/](https://facebook.com/HDCHpage/)

**Tottenham Rights**

For rights and justice in Tottenham

[tottenhamrights.org.uk](http://tottenhamrights.org.uk)

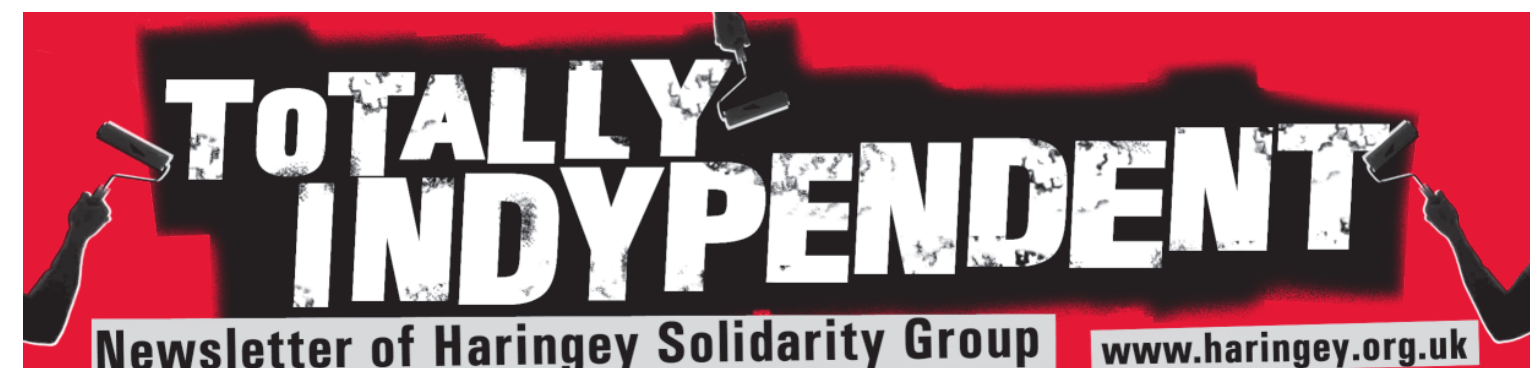
**Haringey Justice for Palestinians**

Campaigns for justice for the Palestinian people  
[hjfp.org.uk](http://hjfp.org.uk)

**Wards Corner Community Coalition**

Stopping demolition of homes, businesses and market at Seven Sisters

[wardscorner.wikispaces.com](http://wardscorner.wikispaces.com)



"I have long been of the opinion that if work were such a splendid thing the rich would have kept more of it for themselves" - Bruce Joseph Grocott (Labour party politician)

## THE GREAT HOUSING SWINDLE

Years ago, Margaret Thatcher got elected. Her and her gang nicknamed 'The Tories' conned loads of us to buy our council houses.

At the time people said, "Don't do it, it's a con". Yet many fell for it. Some wanted to make a quick buck. Others saw it as "protecting" their housing security. Not trusting local authorities, buying seemed the best option. When huge repair bills arrived and interest rates hit the roof, many were evicted for mortgage arrears or left with huge debt.

Now, these homeowners who took housing out of the council's stock are again realising they were conned by 'The Tories'.

Haringey Council needs to build 20,000 new homes in the borough. One place they are looking to do this is our council estates. They plan to knock down whole estates and sell the land to private developers

who will 'redevelop' the land. Private developers don't do this to 'help the poor of Haringey' or 'improve our housing and security'. They do it for big profits for them and their shareholders.

If this goes ahead, council tenants will probably be rehoused. They may have less security and rent levels may rocket but at least they will have a home.

Property owners, though, will be 'bought out' for market value plus 10%. But with homes being knocked down, what will "market value" be? New homes will be hugely more expensive. This has happened throughout London. Few people move back in as they can't afford the prices.

Tenants renting off private landlords (who bought ex-council homes cheaply) will be evicted. Landlords will make a profit and move on. We have made these our homes

but the Council and landlords don't care if we are homeless. 'The Tories' are a gang. They inflict more extortion, stress and fear than most gangs we hear about.

There is an alternative. Residents on Broadwater Farm (and other estates) are getting together and fighting these attacks on their homes. People are realising that the Council's (another gang) lies are just that - lies. Most won't move back onto their estates. Most will end up miles from family and friends. It's time to fight back. If your estate might be up for 'regeneration' (read demolition and rip offs), speak to your Tenants' Association or set one up. Talk to people on other estates. But most of all fight like mad. These are our homes not the Council's. Councillors need to understand we tell them what to do, not the other way round. Haringey Solidarity Group will happily help where we can.



## DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS

We hear politicians claim "the NHS is safe in our hands" but do any of us believe these lies?

Go into any A&E. Try and get a GP's appointment. If you have drug or mental health problems try and get help. Ask anyone with care needs how they cope. We all know the results.

Money won't solve it all but cuts are killing our health care slowly. When I say "ours" I mean workers and claimants. People like politicians and "the rich" have private health care. They don't use the NHS.

Staff do their best. Like us they are low paid and have difficulty getting health care for loved ones.

One quote I saw recently summed it up, "Zero hours' contracts, 15 minute visits and neglected elderly people. That's the reality of care in the UK today."

I know moaning won't help. I know I need to do something but the question is what? Beating the crap out of people like Cameron and Osborne won't help (will it?).

I should support the junior doctors. I should join campaigns and demos to support our NHS. I should let the politicians know I won't take it anymore. I should kick up a fuss. And I would love others to do the same before they totally destroy our access to free health care. I want more not less. Don't you?



# ABOLISH UNIVERSAL CREDIT

The introduction of Universal Credit, which replaces many state benefits, will have a damaging effect on millions of working families, leaving the poorest running up the down escalator. Under Universal Credit low-paid workers will be required to work with

DWP job coaches to seek more work hours, higher pay, or an extra job as a condition of receiving benefits. If claimants fall short of targets agreed with coaches, they may face financial penalties.

Now this appalling government has introduced this policy in Haringey with a clear intention to sap money from the poor and making victims of anyone who needs benefits. The programme is a perfect example of the government's heartless policies. Once fully implemented Universal Credit will mean disastrous consequences for claimants. Applying for it can only be done online, so people without a computer or computer skills will have real difficulty and may not claim. People in part time jobs may be forced to leave these and take a full time job. It's paid monthly, in arrears, so many being sold off by the Mental Health Trust.

StART is a community-led group that aims to provide genuinely affordable homes, along with other facilities, that respond to local needs. Recently a number of consultations were held, attended by over 100 local residents who gave their opinions on what should be included in the architects' plans for the site. In addition to this, StART sent out a survey to local residents which received over 300 responses.

Now that local people have had their say on what the St Ann's site should be used for, StART can work towards meeting those needs. The next challenge is to make those plans a reality.

Right now we are at a crossroads; concrete action is needed to stop the housing crisis destroying communities. Whilst local councils have property developers' best interests at heart, StART is mounting a challenge against this by proposing that genuinely affordable homes must be made available for local people in Haringey.

To do this, StART needs as much support from the local community as possible. To offer your support, visit [www.startharingey.co.uk](http://www.startharingey.co.uk)

will fall into debt and could end up using loan sharks. The housing benefit element is paid to claimants, and trials of this found many claimants went into large rent arrears as money for rent was used to pay for food and heating. The whole benefit goes to one member of the family (normally the male) so women fleeing domestic violence have no income, meaning they may stay with an abusive partner.

The government says that Universal Credit will make work pay. This is rubbish. Campaigners, activists and groups, are uniting to destroy this hated piece of legislation. The Poll Tax campaign teaches how we can bring people together to put a stop to it.

## SCHOOLS FOR SALE

Ever since George Osborne announced, in his latest budget, that the government intends to turn all local authority schools into academies there has been an outcry from nearly everybody, except those in the Cabinet, echoing the local outrage in Tottenham when Downhills school was forced into the Harris academy empire!

It is clear that academies are flawed in principle and not the educational utopia that the Tories claim.

They are run by unaccountable 'sponsors', who are able to disregard parts of the national curriculum, determine salary rates and are given buildings paid for by public money. Education will become a competitive market. The better funded academies will attract the 'better' teachers through increased salaries, and the smaller academies will suffer. The larger academies will also choose the children they would prefer to admit.

But there is a wider political point. The Tories are interested in social control. Most of us regard education as being about opportunity, a right not a privilege. However, the history of education shows that the state has only ever really wanted to regulate learning on a need to know basis whilst enforcing a "know your place" hidden curriculum.

With fewer and fewer skilled jobs needed in industry and less and less employment of any kind even Michael Gove was too radical in his equality rhetoric and had to go. Emboldened - perhaps stupidly - by a Parliamentary majority and a Labour Party he regards as fatally split between MPs and grassroots, Cameron thinks he can now go for total privatisation of education. Nicky Morgan (the new Education Minister) does not use Michael Gove's rhetoric of working class rights but one simply of global competition.

## FILTHY RICH AND MORALLY CORRUPT

The leaked Panama papers which highlighted tax evasion by rich individuals and corporations comes as no big surprise. It is just another show of contempt by privileged people towards the working classes.

While we are battling against austerity, facing cuts to our public services, it is the poorest and most vulnerable in our society who are having to pay the price while the idle rich stash their ill gotten gains into offshore accounts.

Prime minister "Dodgy Dave" and his family have been implicated, dispelling the myth that we are "all in it together".

The hypocrisy shown by those who have the power to legislate against this kind of morally indefensible

behaviour knows no bounds. Let's face it, tax evasion has been an issue for decades yet little has been done to stop it and little or nothing will be done in the future to prevent it.

So long as the filthy rich are allowed privileges that are not accessible to the rest of society then the gulf between the rich and poor will continue to widen.

This is just another example that capitalism is unfair, unjust and fatal to the poorest most vulnerable people in the world today. If those at the top are not willing to share the wealth they make from exploiting the working classes then we need to take it back and use it for the common good.

## REFUGEES: WHAT CRISIS?

For the last two years, politicians and the media have been telling us that we are in the throes of a refugee crisis. Whenever those with power use language like this, it is worth scratching the surface in order to see the bigger picture

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that there are some 20 million people seeking refuge around the globe. Over 80% are hosted by developing countries - that is, countries with not enough to support a minimal standard of living for their people. Many African countries take in refugees from war-torn neighbours and similar events occur in Asia. They do this with limited assistance as they understand the needs of people fleeing for their lives or from persecution.

Lebanon's population has grown by a quarter with the influx of Syrian refugees. Jordan has taken huge numbers too. In fact, the movement of large numbers of displaced people across borders is perfectly normal where we have a militarised world in which the great powers intervene and take sides, stoking conflicts. Now we find a couple of million people from the Middle East desperate for sanctuary and trying to reach Europe.

Europe is wealthy and far better placed to host large numbers of

refugees than other areas of the world. Last year, Germany took in 800,000 - equivalent to 1% of its population. On that basis, the UK could take 650,000. Cameron's response - 20,000 over five years.

Whatever happened to humanity and looking after each other? The US and Europe took in hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese boat people in the 1980's. The UK took in 35,000 Ugandan Asians in a matter of weeks in 1971. As the Balkans was ripped apart by conflict in the 1990's, Croats, Bosnians, Serbs and Kosovans were welcomed with open arms throughout Europe.

Sadly, we have moved into a very depressing phase of our existence.

Politicians, who lack any vision for a better society, simply promote greed. Borders are locked down as they tell us refugees and migrants will take what is ours. It is time we understood at whose expense the West became so wealthy, open our arms to those in need and construct a better world.

## KILL THE BILL

Everyone knows there is a housing crisis in London - rents are skyrocketing, councils' housing services are collapsing under the strain and more and more people are sleeping rough.

Meanwhile we can all see the cranes on the skyline, the council homes getting knocked down and the shiny new buildings going up in their place. So the Government decided to do something and now we have the Housing and Planning Bill going through Parliament.

This should sort things out right? Wrong. At a time when thousands of people are on the waiting list for housing, the Government is forcing councils to sell homes so that housing association tenants, people who already have a home, can be given a cash bonanza to buy their homes. Homes will then be privately owned so that housing associations can never rent them to people who need them.

Families who do get housed by the councils won't get properly secure tenancies anymore. Furthermore, the Government is forcing councils to reduce tenancies to just 2-10 years so that people can never put down roots. Kids will have to change schools every few years and communities will be made up of people just passing through.

Money that should be used to build homes that people can afford will be funnelled away to build 'starter homes' costing up to £450,000. The Housing and Planning Bill is a massive transfer of our resources to people who are already doing alright. The Bill will turn the housing crisis into a disaster except for the rich of course, who will be able to carry on adding to their property portfolios at our expense.



## THIS IS A START BUT WE NEED TO DO MORE

The housing crisis in Britain, particularly London, is one of the biggest problems we face today. House prices and rents are rising at unprecedented levels, plunging people into levels of poverty we haven't seen for generations.

Currently in London, around 25,000 homes are built every year. It is generally accepted that double that figure is needed to meet demand. However, most of the homes being built are not affordable for many Londoners, resulting in people having to sacrifice much of their wages on rents and mortgages or move out of the capital completely.

Neither does the situation seem to be getting better any time soon. It is at this point that communities must take it into their own hands to tackle the crisis head-on; the St Ann's Redevelopment Trust (StART) in Tottenham is doing just that.

Set up and run by a group of local residents and workers, StART aims to build genuinely affordable housing on the site of St Ann's Hospital, two thirds of which is

